

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09963 041346Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----101522 041347Z /41
P 041341Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7535
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

S E C R E T CAIRO 09963

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP
SUBJECT: WEIZMAN VISIT

1. IN TALK WITH VP MUBARAK TODAY, I ALLUDED TO MEDIA REPORTS THAT WEIZMAN MAY AGAIN BE EXPECTED SHORTLY AND ASKED IF A DATE HAD BEEN FIXED. MUBARAK SAID GOE HAD ALSO HEARD ISRAELI PUBLIC MEDIA REPORTS TO THAT EFFECT. HE UNDERSTOOD U.S. AMBASSADOR IN ISRAEL IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE MADE SIMILAR STATEMENT TO THE PRESS.

2. MUBARAK INSISTED, HOWEVER, THAT GOE HAS HEARD NOTHING OFFICIAL FROM ISRAELIS ABOUT SUCH VISIT. HE RECALLED THAT DURING RECENT VISIT TO CAIRO, WEIZMAN HAD SUGGESTED BARAK AND MEIR ROSENNE BE SENT FOR TECHNICAL TALKS. SADAT HAD AGREED, BUT ASKED THAT THEY NOT BE SENT FOR TEN DAYS OR SO BECAUSE OF OTHER PRESIDENTIAL COMMITMENTS. THE SAME, MUBARAK SUGGESTED, APPLIES TO WEIZMAN.

3. MUBARAK WAS CLEARLY A BIT ANNOYED THAT ISRAELIS ARE AGAIN PUBLICLY SPEAKING OF A WEIZMAN VISIT BEFORE EVEN CONSULTING WITH GOE. MUBARAK IS AWARE THAT SADAT'S WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE WEIZMAN, WHILE ISRAELIS ARE STILL IN SOUTH LEBANON, IS RECEIVING WIDESPREAD CRITICISM FROM

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OFFICIALS, SENIOR EDITORS AND THE PUBLIC. THIS CRITICISM HAS NOT CREPT INTO PUBLIC MEDIA, BUT ONE HEARS IT EVERYWHERE. EVEN FONMIN KAMEL EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS YESTERDAY THAT WEIZMAN HAD BEEN RECEIVED BEFORE ISRAELIS ARE OUT OF SOUTH LEBANON. FORMER FONMIN FAHMY HAS DESCRIBED RECENT WEIZMAN VISIT, WITH ISRAELIS STILL IN SOUTH LEBANON, AS "PUTTING OUR HEAD IN THE MUD."

4. DESPITE THIS PUBLIC CRITICISM, SADAT MAY BE EXPECTED
TO BE WILLING RECEIVE WEIZMAN AGAIN. BUT IT WOULD MAKE IT
A GREAT DEAL EASIER FOR SADAT, AT HOME AND IN ARAB WORLD,
IF ISRAELIS WERE OUT OF SOUTH LEBANON. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO09963
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780145-0221
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780496/aaaadvvy.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fdba09b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3086003
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEIZMAN VISIT
TAGS: OVIP, (WEIZMAN, EZER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fdba09b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014